NOTES FROM THE:

Financial Information Systems Program Office

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By the time this article is published, the date rollover from 1999 to 2000 will have occurred and we will know the success of our extensive efforts to insure Y2K problems were not experienced. I can tell you we did everything possible. The Standard Systems Group (SSG) established the Y2K Fusion Center to receive and coordinate all trouble calls relating to Y2K. The Fusion Center, with the latest hardware, software, and communication technology, will continue to support users for many years and will improve the level of support and responsiveness to field problems significantly. With this major challenge now behind us, we are postured for the 29 February 2000 leap year event, and are still under a release moratorium through March 2000 for several of our DFAS systems, unless waivers are approved. With the passing of these events, it's time to look to the future and efforts we have underway to improve support to customers and users worldwide. Included below are updates on three of our initiatives.

The Financial Information Systems Assessment (FISA). Our SAF/FM-chartered study is nearing completion. Phase II was wrapped up in October, with the development of 17 plans of action to achieve 11 end-state systems. Legislative Compliance, Technical Certification, a US Standard General Ledger System, Travel Systems Consolidation, Web Based Processing, and Database Improvements were just a few of the opportunity areas addressed. Each plan consists of steps to aid in bringing the affected financial systems in line to achieve certain end-state scenarios. Further analysis of the estimates derived for these actions is currently underway. The final results of the study were presented to the SAF/FM Executive Oversight Group in December 1999. As for the FISA encyclopedia itself, our schedule as of November 1999 was to have the web-enabled version on-line by the end of December 1999. Plans are to have the database accessible via a web site, which will allow access to the information by simply using a desktop browser. Ultimately, we hope to have the database electronically updated on a monthly basis. This will allow access to detailed functional and technical information on approximately 135 financial systems and interfacing data for over 700 systems.

Automated Business Services System (ABSS). The ABSS, an Air Force (AF) standard system, automates the processing of financial commitment documents from creation through all levels of coordination and approval. ABSS provides the financial community an electronic interface to the AF standard accounting systems to validate funds availability and streamline the commitment process. The system also provides an interface into the contracting communities BCAS system, and is currently releasing an initial limited interface into the new AF Standard Procurement System (SPS). By the end of FY99, ABSS had been implemented for 75 AF locations, including 55 AF bases. The system is fully deployed to sites within AFMC, AMC, AFSOC, PACAF, and five of the six main operating bases within USAFE. All AF bases will complete implementation by May 2000. The ABSS team will then concentrate on the deployment of the remaining ANG, AFRES, and USAFE geographically separated units with a scheduled completion by the end of FY01. The system has seen wide acceptance at all of the sites deployed. Of the sites deployed in FY98, 75% of the documents were processed via ABSS. As of the end of FY99 approximately 90% of documents that could be processed via ABSS were processed in ABSS. ABSS will continue to evolve and improve including converting to a web enabled system during 2000.

WinGAMPS/WinMOOPS/WinFrames. The WinGAMPS, WinMOOPS, & WinFrame suite of applications are new and improved for 32-bit systems. The programmers at the Standard Systems Group Financial Systems office have been hard at work upgrading the Windows 3.1 versions for Windows 95 and Windows NT compatibility. We've provided improved graphical user interfaces, greater ease of use, and expanded functions and capabilities for the programs, while retaining the familiar look of the original applications.

In all three 16-bit versions of the programs, many of the cumbersome dialogs used to relay transaction status, data entry error notifications, and various other messages that required a user response have been eliminated. Replacing these dialogs is a continuously visible scrolling message window located on the status bar at the bottom of the main window. As messages are returned to the program, users can track them with no additional actions required. In WinGAMPS32, we've also kept the familiar Traffic Light as a visual notification of accepted, rejected, or other action required transaction responses. Another upgraded feature of the 32-bit programs is the introduction of toolbars, located under the menu bar, to emulate any function contained in the menu. This toolbar contains clickable icons that immediately execute their programmed functions, thus eliminating the need to navigate through multi-layered menus. All other functionality of the original programs is retained in the new versions.

WinFrame32, the User-Designed Frame builder, has been refined to allow smoother text, data, and filler box placement on the frame. The 'snap-to' function permits boxes to be placed virtually side-by-side in perfect alignment, allowing the user to quickly build professional looking frames in minutes.

Final functional testing for Win95 and WinNT systems was completed in November 1999. The complete set of programs is scheduled for spring 2000 release.